

product.

3. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein, the source of copper may be salts of copper such as nitrate, sulfate, acetate or chloride, preferably copper nitrate.
4. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the source of aluminium may be aluminium salts such as nitrate, chloride, or aluminium oxide preferably aluminium nitrate.
5. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the source of zinc may be salts of zinc such as nitrate, or zinc sulfate or chloride, or zinc oxide, preferably zinc nitrate.
6. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the source of precipitating agent may be ammonium salt such as ammonium dichromate or ammonium chromate, preferably ammonium dichromate

# ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a process for the preparation of an improved copper chromite catalyst for the hydrogenation of diethyl maleate to tetrahydrofuran with very high selectivity. This invention particularly relates to a process for the preparation of an improved copper chromite catalyst with specific composition and physical properties containing copper, chromium, zinc and aluminium as catalyst components in order to achieve selective production of tetrahydrofuran via single step hydrogenation of diethyl maleate. The calcination procedure has also been described to achieve the best activity. The catalyst has a life of more than 630 hours with constant activity. The used catalyst can also be regenerated to match the original hydrogenation activity.